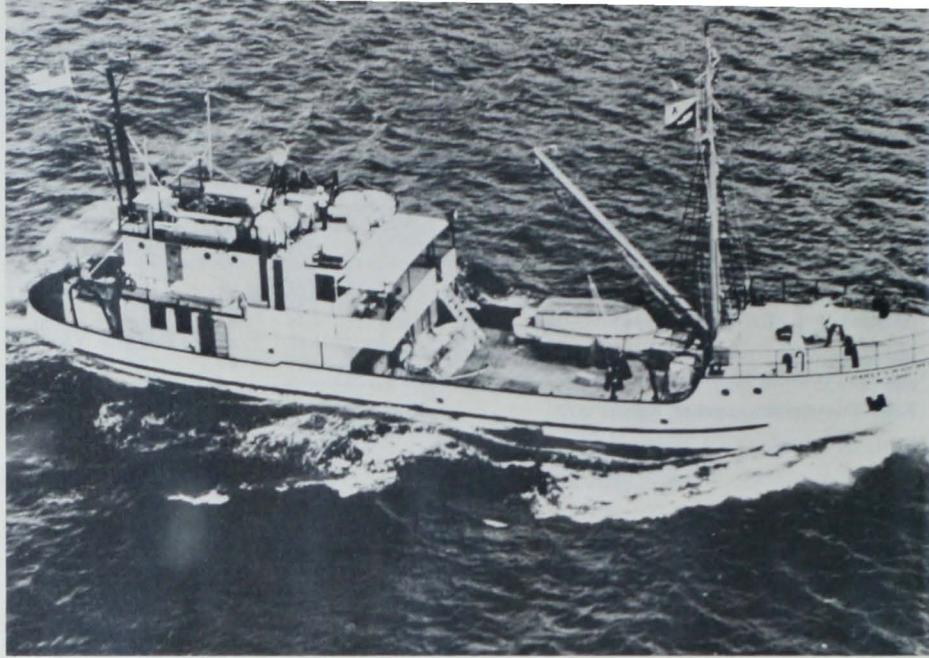


Editor's Comments

Charles H. Gilbert and the *Charles H. Gilbert*

• Charles H. Gilbert (1859-1928) was an American zoologist who became a member of the staff of the U.S. Fish Commission, predecessor of the National Marine Fisheries Service, at the age of 21 and who, in that capacity, made many distinguished contributions to American fisheries research over a period of several decades. His career centered on the Pacific Ocean and it was he who conducted pioneering studies of the fishes of the Hawaiian Islands. It was fitting, therefore, that when, in the 1950's, the Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations was established in Honolulu under the leadership of the late Oscar Elton Sette, the organization's first research vessel should be named after this notable figure in fisheries science. The 122-foot research vessel *Charles H. Gilbert* was commissioned in 1953. She was decommissioned in February 1973, and in August, sold at public sale. In the course of her two decades of service, she made 130 cruises, traveling more than 350,000 miles. Her history is written in the scores of published scientific papers that have brought new understanding of the fishes, fisheries, and oceanography of the central Pacific Ocean. One unusual feature of the *Charles H. Gilbert* was her underwater viewing ports, just below the water line. From these, scientists made visual and photographic observations of the behavior of skipjack tuna that have been widely reported. One of these photographs, showing a school of skipjack tuna feeding is, I would guess, probably the most frequently reprinted photograph of fishes ever taken. We print on this page one last picture of the *Charles H. Gilbert*, a vessel which truly honored the memory of the fine scientist whose name she bore.

• The Pacific Science Association held its Second Inter-Congress at the University of Guam in May. The Associ-



The *Charles H. Gilbert*

ation is an international, regional, scientific organization founded in 1920. It sponsors Congresses every four years. Inter-Congresses are held midway between Congresses.

The Guam meeting passed a resolution I find of uncommon interest. It is reported in the Pacific Science Association Information Bulletin, Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Vol. 25, Nos. 3 and 4:

Marine resources in the tropical Pacific are in need of conservation, including a scientific rationale for their sustained yield management. Indigenous Pacific island cultures include features that are in reality conservation practices in the guise of social customs, religion, taboos, and the like. Present scientific management research notwithstanding, application of such knowledge may become critical to the future ability of islands to carry and support their expanding population on a fixed resource base.

Be it therefore RESOLVED that the Pacific Science Association support and promote a program of research in Marine Ethnobiology through its appropriate Scientific Committees or as a separate Association project.

• Still another in the series, "Marine flora and fauna of the northeastern United States," has been issued. This one deals with the pycnogonida. It

was written by Lawrence R. McCloskey, Department of Biology, Walla Walla College, College Place, Washington. Walla Walla is a long way from the northeastern United States of course: The paper was written when McCloskey was a member of the staff of the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Mass. The 12-page illustrated publication is available from the Superintendent of Documents at a price of 30 cents.

• A new name appears on the masthead this month. It is that of Willis L.



Hobart

Hobart who assumes the position of Managing Editor of *MFR*. Hoby's qualifications for the job were briefly set forth in the Editor's Comments of the September number

of *MFR*. An avid fisherman and a skilled photographer, it was he who contributed the uncredited cover photograph of a leaping salmon that we used on our October cover. It was he also who devised the ingenious layout of an article much praised as one of our most useful, Joe Pileggi's "Fuel Shortages and the Fisherman" in the September number.

T.A.M.